NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas
32nd Congressional District

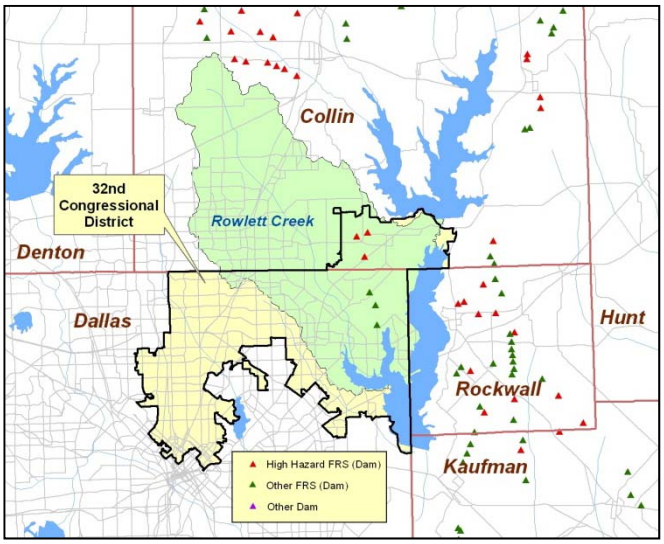
In the mid-1930s, Congress began looking at ways to complement the downstream flood control program of the Corps of Engineers. It passed flood control acts in 1936, 1944, and 1954 and assigned responsibility of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to the USDA Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Since that time, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in construction of nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures (dams) in 145 watershed projects across Texas. In addition, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors with the in installation of land treatment practices and channel improvements for watershed protection.

Texas watershed projects provide **$150 million** in annual benefits.

The watershed projects which impact the 32nd Congressional District provide **$412,000** in annual benefits, as well as capturing nearly 72,000 tons of sediment annually. They create or enhance 340 acres of wetland, as well as protecting 17 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads.

There are **6 constructed watershed dams** in the district.



Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is the major responsibility of project sponsors (local units of government, usually conservation districts, city and county governments, and special purpose districts).

Rehabilitation of dams in Collin County as a result of Urbanization

Operation and maintenance of watershed dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes clearing trees from dams and spillways, repairing soil erosion damage, repairing damages after heavy storm events, and keeping the principal spillway inlet clear of debris.

Three dams in need repair at an estimated cost of $227,000.

Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams. A typical candidate site for rehabilitation was constructed between the late 1950's to the middle 1960's and no longer meets current safety criteria. All six dams in the 3district are over 50 years old.

The majority of the 32nd Congressional District was in a rural setting when the watershed projects were planned. Conversion from agricultural to urban land use has taken place and is intensifying.

Many dams originally constructed as low hazard are now classified as high hazard, or will soon be high hazard as a result of downstream urbanization. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to protect lives and downstream property.

Three dams in the 32nd Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. These three dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of $4.5 million, including $1.6 million in sponsor's cost.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 32	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Rowlett Creek	6	6	$412,000	17	340	71,800
Total	6	6	$412,000	17	340	71,800

Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages to agricultural lands and rural and urban infrastructure including roads and bridges. Other benefits include soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat.

Listed below are the sponsors for watersheds located in the 32nd Congressional District:

Collin County Commissioners Court
Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District
Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District

Information about watershed projects and other conservation programs is available at the local conservation district or NRCS offices. For further information, refer to the Texas NRCS website located at:
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/tx/programs/planning/wpfp